

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00879 041639Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
MCE-00 EUR-12 L-03 TRSE-00 /041 W
-----019137 041727Z /41
R 041547Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4284

S E C R E T CONAKRY 0879

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, GV, US
SUBJECT: PATROL BOATS FOR GUINEA

REF: CONAKRY 362

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR LEWIN REPORTS THAT DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE GUINEAN PURCHASE OF FRENCH PATROL CRAFT HAS NOT GOT BEYOND VERY PRELIMINARY STAGE. FRANCE IS READY TO SELL THE CRAFT, AT A TOTAL COST OF \$2 MILLION, WITH SEVEN-YEAR CREDIT FINANCING, BUT MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ETC., LOUIS HOLIE, WHO IS (SIGNIFICANTLY) IN CHARGE OF THE BOAT NEGOTIATIONS, HAS INFORMED LEWIN HE IS STRAPPED FOR FUNDS AND CAN TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION IN THE MATTER UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

2. COMMENT: GUINEAN CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS RECENTLY RAISED QUESTION OF PATROL BOATS WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER, MAKING CLEAR THEIR INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT CONTINUES ACTIVE. WE HAVE NOT YET INFORMED GOG OF NEGATIVE WASHINGTON RESPONSE, BUT WITH US OUT OF THE RUNNING AND NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE IN VIEW, IT APPEARS LIKELY GOG MAY TURN TO SOVIET UNION FOR NAVAL PATROL BOATS (SEE ATC-1527, APRIL 24, 1978). THE PROBABLE END RESULT WILL BE A STRENGTHENING RATHER THAN A REDUCTION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE WITH THE GUINEAN MILITARY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CONAKR00879
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-0041
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780594/aaaadcjq.tel
Line Count: 56
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43ef98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CONAKRY 362
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2796409
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PATROL BOATS FOR GUINEA
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, GV, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43ef98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014